

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-24 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 16, 18 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Luther (U.S. Patent 5,500,919). The Examiner has rejected Claims 3-7, 11-15, 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Luther in view of Lu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,819,260).

Please amend Claims 1, 9 and 18 as set forth herein. No new matter has been added.

On February 1, 2008 the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor conducted a telephonic Interview with Applicants' Representative, Michael J. Musella. The amendments to Claims 1, 9 and 18 contained herein are the results of the interview.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claims 1, 9 and 18 under §102(b) the Examiner states that Luther anticipates each and every element of the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Each of amended Claims 1, 9 and 18 relate to a system or method that determines if uncommon words exist in certain text, and if it is determined that an uncommon word exists in the text, **pausing and then resuming the output** from the speech synthesizer of the synthesized speech of the uncommon word **to offset the uncommon word from its surrounding speech**.

In the claims of the present application the uncommon word is output. The output of the uncommon word is offset from the surrounding speech, that is, the output is paused and then resumed.

Luther discloses a graphics user interface for controlling text-to-speech conversion. Luther discloses at col. 5, lines 5-6 that words that do not match a spelling dictionary are spelled

out. Luther does not teach or disclose pausing and then resuming the output of the synthesized speech of the uncommon word to offset the uncommon word from its surrounding speech

MPEP §2131 Anticipation, clearly states that to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.

Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 9 and 18 under §102(b), is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 3-7, 11-15, 19-23 under §103(a) the Examiner states that Luther in view of Lu et al. renders the claims unpatentable. Applicants respectfully disagree.

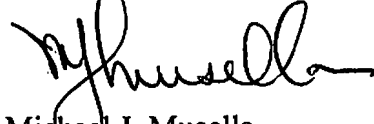
Lu et al. discloses a phrase recognition method and apparatus. Claims 3-7, 11-15, 19-23 are believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims.

Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 3-7, 11-15, 19-23 under §103(a), is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 9 and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 19-24, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 19-24 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-16 and 18-24, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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